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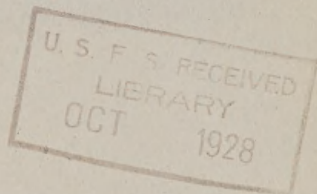
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FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH IN PICTURES

NO. 29

SOIL AND MOISTURE
WOOD ENEMIES



FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY
U. S. FOREST SERVICE
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Unlike the Libyan giant whose strength was renewed whenever he touched the earth, wood loses strength and rots rapidly when placed in contact with the soil.

The photograph shows siding which was run clear down to the ground. The soil and a litter of sawdust have kept the wood moist and made it easy for fungi to develop. The siding has rotted away long before the period of service desired of it is completed.

Approximately 4 billion cubic feet of timber is felled every year to replace wood destroyed by decay in service. An appreciable amount of this might be saved if wood intended for long service were not placed untreated directly on the earth, or in locations where moisture, weeds, debris, and stagnant air breed decay.

(Photograph by Forest Products Laboratory, U. S. Forest Service)

